



An Important Message About Your Water

Riverside has long been on the cutting edge of water quality issues thanks to the proactive work of Riverside Public Utilities. **Riverside’s drinking water is clean, safe and reliable, just as it has been for nearly a century.** A recent study received a lot of attention for criticizing the quality of Riverside’s drinking water. But that study, by a Washington, DC-based advocacy group, contains a serious error that discredits not only the findings but the report itself.

Groundwater, as the name suggests, is what we pump from the ground. That water is then treated to ensure it is safe before it comes out of the tap in homes and businesses. Riverside, like thousands of other water providers around the country, spends millions of dollars every year ensuring that its drinking water meets or surpasses all state and federal guidelines.

Riverside Public Utilities knows that water is essential for life, and this understanding guides everything we do. Groundwater is tested multiple times throughout the city’s water system from the source to the tap. An independent lab took more than 16,200 water samples in 2008 alone.

The results of these and other tests are reported from the lab directly to the state Department of Public Health. This data is then shared with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Riverside Public Utilities also makes this information available to the public through reports that are mailed annually to consumers and made available online at BlueRiverside.com.

Groundwater issues are nothing new to the Inland area or the rest of the country. Fortunately, advances in science and technology allow us to overcome these challenges and ensure a safe supply of drinking water. We are heartened by the fact that our surveys show that Riverside residents have high levels of trust and satisfaction when it comes to their local utility.

Treating groundwater so that it can be safely consumed as drinking water is neither easy nor cheap. But it is necessary, and that is why we do it. To ignore that treatment process is irresponsible.

David H. Wright

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